Shortage of Cooking Gas Cylinders in the Country

137. SHRI JAGADISH JANI:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there had been an acute shortage of cooking gas cylinders in Delhi and other parts of the country.

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether raids were conducted at the permises of cooking gas agencies in Delhi and other parts of the country to detect hoarding and blackmarketng; if so, with what results; and

(d) what steps have been taken to overcome the shortage and to stop hoarding and blackmarketing of cooking gas cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) A temporary shortage in the supply of LPG refils was reported from certain locations of the country on account of constraints in the availability of bulk LPG, transportation problems and law and order problems.

(c) The details of the results of the surprise checks conducted on the premises of LPG dealers are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The LPG availability is augmented through enhanced indigenous production and imports, to overcome shortages. In order to prevent malpractices, regular and surprise inspections are carried out by the field staff of LPG marketing companies. All complaints received against the LPG distributos are investigated and wherever the charges are established. appropriate action is taken in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, and dealership agreement.

Demand for opening of New Gas Agencies in Tamil Nadu

138. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the places in Tamil Nadu wherefrom demands have been received for the opening of new gas agencies;

(b) whether Government have chalked out any time bound programme for sanctioning new gas agencies in the State; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) During 1990 a market survey was conducted at 29 locations (as per statement) in Tamil Nadu to assess the viability of markets for opening LPG distributorships.

(b) and (c) It has not been possible to adopt a time bound programme to sanction new LPG distributorships because of the restricted product availability and the large number of existing distributiors operating below viable levels.

Statement

Location

1. Manaliapuram
2. Udumalpet
3. Kancheepuram city
4. Harur
5. Cumbun town
6. Dindigul
7. Coimbatore
8. Eraiyur
9. Lebbakoodadu
10. Thirubuvanam
11. Kolliajam
12. Chengam taluk

13. Nagar Coil
14. Ponneri
15. Solayaram
16. Panchayat Minjur
17. Karanoda
18. Jannappan Thatnam
19. Kilakara
20. Mailaduthrai
21. Koothanaloor
22. Chengal Uthirampur
23. Chidambaram
24. Nayveli-I
25. Vridhachalam
26. Nayveli-II
27. Vadalur
28. Kuringipidi
29. Kattumannarkoil

Cooking Gas Agencies in Tamil Nadu

139. SHRI R.T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cooking gas consumers and also the number of cooking gas agencies in Tamil Nadu at present, citywise and townwise;

(b) what is the number of persons who are on the waiting list, citywise and townwise; and

(c) what is the number of LPG agencies proposed to be sanctioned this year alongwith their location?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) The effort involved in collecting this information is not commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

(c) In view of the product shortage, large number of existing distributors operating below viables levels and the various steps prior to the sanctioning of new LPG distributorships it is not possible to indicate the locations and number of new distributors proposed to be sanctioned in this year.

Opening of Petrol Pumps and cooking Gas Agencies in the Backward Areas of Tamil Nadu

140. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target of Government for the opening of petrol pumps and cooking gas agencies in the backward areas of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) how many of such agencies have been sanctioned so far and have started functioning during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 and the location of each?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No target has been fixed for opening Retail Outlets (Diesel Petrol) and LPG distributorships in the backward areas of the Tamil Nadu.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Air crash at Ahmedabad

141. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 143 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th August, 1990 and state what follow-up action has been taken on the report of the Enquiry Committee that inquired into the crash of aircraft at Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): A statement giving the present status of implementations of the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry is attached.